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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

December 7, 2000

The Honorable Aida Alvarez
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Ms. Alvarez:

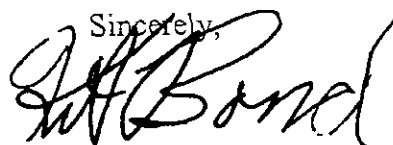
On October 20, 2000, the Small Business Administration (SBA) replied to my inquiry about the expenditure of Federal funds by the SBA to pay for make-up and other personal care services. Unfortunately, the SBA response failed to respond completely to my original letter dated October 12, 2000. Accordingly, this is a follow-up request.

First, the October 20 letter includes a list of "production dates" since December 15, 1999, when the SBA initially procured make-up and personal care services. However, my original letter to you requested that SBA identify and document "each" instance since October 1, 1998, when SBA procured make-up and personal care services. Please provide me with the information as requested in my October 12, 2000 letter.

Second, the SBA reply stated that its Office of General Counsel had opined on the appropriateness and legality of these expenditures. Following receipt of your letter, the Committee on Small Business requested a copy of the opinion from SBA's General Counsel on this subject. To date, and despite the Committee's request, the opinion has not yet been received. Accordingly, please provide me with a copy of the General Counsel's opinion endorsing the use of Federal funds to pay for make-up and personal care services.

Your prompt response by 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 14, 2000, would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have you staff contact the Committee's Chief Counsel, Paul Cooksey, at (202) 224-

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Chairman